

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shuwu Wu et al.
Serial No. : 09/810,159
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Title : VOICE INSTANT MESSAGING

Art Unit : ~~2645~~ 2155
Examiner : ~~Nguyen, Trong Nhan P.~~ Nawaz, Asad

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Adm
9/3/06*

REPLY TO ACTION OF APRIL 19, 2006

Claims 1-25, 37-39 and 41-44 are under consideration, with claims 1, 21, 22 and 44 being independent. Claims 27-36 have been withdrawn.

Independent claims 1, 21, 22 and 44, and their dependent claims (i.e., claims 2-20, 23-25, 37-39 and 41-43) have been rejected as being unpatentable over Cook (U.S. Patent No. 6,879,665) in view of PowWow (NPL dated 3/1/2000). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claims 1, 21 and 22, as amended, each recite, among other features, “enabling presentation of a first text instant messaging graphical user interface to the recipient that includes a display of the message text and an icon, the presentation of the first text instant messaging graphical user interface being conditioned on communication of the text instant message between the sender and the recipient” (emphasis added) and “enabling manipulation by the recipient of the icon to invoke voice communications”. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 21 and 22, and their dependent claims, because neither Cook, PowWow, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests enabling presentation of the recited text instant messaging graphical user interface (GUI) including a display of an icon and a message text of a text instant message, the icon being manipulable by the recipient of the text instant message to invoke voice communications, wherein the presentation of the GUI is conditioned on communication of the text instant message between the sender and the recipient.

Cook describes an e-mail system that has been modified to support the communication of voice messages. As stated in the response to the Final Office Action of December 2, 2005,